

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01544 080729 Z

16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 EA-11

GAC-01 RSR-01 OMB-01 /106 W
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P 071603 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 17

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1544

E. O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS ATTACK ON PALME FOREIGN POLICY

1. IN A LEAD EDIT MAY 6, UNDER HEADLINE " PALME SEEKS CONFLICT ON FOREIGN POLICIES," LIBERAL EXPRESSEN QUESTIONED WHETHER PRIMIN PALME AND FORNMIN WICKMAN " REALLY ARE THE BEST POSSIBLE GUARANTORS OF A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY CAPABLE OF PROTECTING SWEDEN' S SAFETY AND INDEPENDENCE." PAPER CHARGED THAT LACKING OTHER CAMPAIGN IDEAS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE TRYING TO STIR UP CONTROVERSTY AROUND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

2. " PALME HAS WON MANY ADMIRERS FOR TOUGH LANGUAGE ON VIETNAM, BUT DOES IT REALLY INCREASE SWEDEN' S SECURITY THAT AMERICAN LEADERS FALL INTO FIT OF RAGE EVERY TIME SWEDEN' S PRIMIN OPENS HIS MOUTH,?" EXPRESSEN ASKED.

3. PAPER CONTINUED: " SWEDEN TODAY IS IN MORE OPEN CONFLICT THAN EVER BEFORE WITH ONE OF THE WORLD' S SUPERPOWERS. THE CRISES IN SOVIET- SWEDISH RELATIONS NEVER HAD SUCH REPERCUSSIONS ON THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT SWEDEN OUGHT TO APOLOGIZE EVEN FOR THE UNFORTUNATE CHOICE OF WORDS IN SOME OF PALME' S ATTACKS ON U. S. VIETNAM POLICY. SUCH AN APOLOGY IS UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF
CONCEDING TO BIG POWER PRESSURE. A SMALL UNALIGNED
COUNTRY CANNOT PERMIT ITSELF ANYTHING THAT COULD BE
INTERPRETED AS AN ACT OF APPEASEMENT. BUT PRECISELY FOR
THIS REASON IT IS NECESSARY TO ACT IN SUCH A WAY THAT ONE
NEVER UNNECESSARILY LANDS IN A SITUATION WHERE CONCESSIONS
MIGHT BE DEMANDED."

4. EXPRESSEN ALSO NOTES THAT SAME SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHO NOW
CLAIM IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DANGEROUS TO ADOPT SOFTER
TONE TO U. S. SHARPLY ATTACKED THEN LIBERAL PARTY LEADER
SVEN WEDEN FOR BEING TOO HARSH IN HIS CRITICISM OF
SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARD CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968,
ARGUING THAT WEDEN ENDANGERED NEUTRALITY AND THAT
SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TREATED CZECHS EVEN WORSE IF
SWEDISH CRITICISM OF MOSCOW' S PLANS HAD BEEN SHARPER.

5. EXPRESSEN CONCLUDES: " SWEDES ARE NOT IDIOTS WHO
CAN BE LED TO BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
DO INCREASES OUR SECURITY AND WHATEVER OTHER PARTIES DO
ENDANGERS OUR NEUTRALITY. IT IS GOOD THAT SWEDEN NOW
MORE THAN BEFORE TALKS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. BUT THIS ACTIVE ROLE
IS MORE DEMANDING THAN A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH. IT IS
HARDLY AN EVIDENCE OF SUPERIOR SKILL IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT
WE NOW ARE AT THE BRINK OF A BREAK IN OUR DIPLOMATIC RELA-
TIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IF PALME AND WICKMAN TRY TO USE
FOREIGN POLICIES AS A WEAPON IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN THEY WILL
DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE GOT HOLD OF A BOOMERANG."
OLSEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

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Disposition Event:
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